

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS TO JORDAN -- TALK WITH KING AND
CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

SUMMARY: SENATOR JAVITS SPENT A PRODUCTIVE 24 HOURS IN
JORDAN SEEING KING, CROWN PRINCE, PRIME MINISTER, MEETING
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF LOCAL LEADERS AT DINNER AND
SEEING JORDAN VALLEY FROM HELICOPTER. END SUMMARY

1. SENATOR JAVITS MET WITH CROWN PRINCE WITHIN HALF
AN HOUR OF HIS ARRIVAL APRIL 20 FROM DAMASCUS AND SAW
KING SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. DISCUSSION WITH KING WAS MOST SUBSTANTIVE POLITICALLY
AND TURNED ON BASIC QUESTION OF PEACE IN THE AREA. AFTER
EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, SENATOR TOLD KING THAT IT WAS
FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE KING IN JORDAN. SENATOR
NOTED HIS STOPS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA AND THEN TOLD
KING THAT HE REMAINED CONCERNED THAT WHAT HE AND KING HAD
TALKED ABOUT IN WASHINGTON THREE WEEKS AGO REMAINED
SIGNIFICANT. KING, SENATOR SAID HAD KEY ROLE
TO PLAY AND HELD A HAND OF HIGH CARDS. SENATOR THEN
WENT ON TO POINT OUT SOME OF THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE
AND FORCES WORKING IN THE AREA WHICH WOULD BE AN

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IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. FIRST,
SENATOR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE WIDE INTEREST

IN PEACE HE HAD SENSED AND THE CONCOMMITANT STRESS
ON TRYING TO AVOID WAR. HE DID NOT BELIEVE ARAB
LEADERS HE HAD TALKED WITH, OR THE KING FOR THAT
MATTER, WANTED WAR.

3. SECONDLY, THERE WAS THE ECONOMIC QUESTION.
BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL, HE SAID, FACED LARGE ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. WITH THEIR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, ANY
RATIONAL OBSERVER WOULD HAVE A TOUGH TIME CONCLUDING
THAT EITHER WAS A VIABLE STATE IN ECONOMIC TERMS.
IT WOULD GET WORSE.

4. THIRDLY, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS AND DETENTE. HERE, DETENTE HAD TO BE
MORE THAN JUST THE SALT AGREEMENT. IT HAD TO EXTEND
ACROSS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF AFFAIRS AND THEREFORE WAS A
SIGNIFICANT FACTOR.

5. FINALLY, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OR ISSUE OF THE
PALESTINIANS. THE NEW POINT HERE WAS THE ELECTIONS IN
THE WEST BANK. THE ISRAELIS WERE TO BE ADMIRER FOR
HAVING HELD AN OPEN ELECTION AMONG THE PALESTINIANS IN
THE WEST BANK AND ACCEPTED THE CONSEQUENCES. HE WOULD
TELL THAT TO RABIN WHEN HE SAW HIM.

6. THE SENATOR THEN MOVED TO A DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIGHT
HAPPEN NEXT HE PUT HEAVY STRESS ON THE NEED FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT.
HE ALSO EMPHASIZED FOR THE KING THE CONTINUING
IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE KING'S ROLE IN THE AREA.
THE SENATOR NOTED THE POSSIBILITIES OF RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES OF
TERRITORY AND SAID HE FELT BORDERS HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED.
HE ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN PRESIDENT FORD BEFORE HIS
DEPARTURE AND THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO CONVEY TO KING
HUSSEIN AMERICAN APPRECIATION FOR THE RESTRAINT WITH
WHICH THE KING HAD ACTED IN THE CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS.

7. THE KING IN RESPONSE SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH
SENATOR'S ASSESSMENT ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN
EGYPT. FURTHER, HE HAD NOTED RESULTS OF RECENT WEST

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BANK ELECTIONS. WHILE THERE WERE A FEW COMMUNISTS
AMONG THE NAMES WHICH HAD WON, THE OTHERS WERE
VIRTUAL UNKNOWNNS. JORDANIANS WERE STILL CHECKING THEIR

RECORDS TO SEE WHO THEY COULD IDENTIFY, BUT IT APPEARED
TO BE A NEW GENERATION IN POWER.

8. KING THEN WENT ON TO ADDRESS IN SOME DETAIL QUESTION
OF PEACE. HE NOTED THAT STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS SEEMS TO
BE DEAD AND THAT SOMETHING MORE SWEEPING TREATING THE WHOLE

PROBLEM IS NOW REQUIRED, AFTER HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NOTHING COULD REALLY BE DONE THIS YEAR. KING NOTED HE HAD TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ABOUT WITHDRAWALS ALLL ALONG TBE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFRONTATION LINE IN RETURN FOR AN END TO THE STATE OF WAR. AS FOR JORDAN, THIS KIND OF STEP WAS NOT ON. HE THOUGHT ALSO THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS, BUT COULD NOT BE SURE ABOUT EGYPT.

9. KING WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HIS OBJECTILNS. HE WAS NOT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE AFTER THE RABAT SUMMIT HE HAD GIVEN UP THE POSSIBILITY. THE AGREEMENT PROPOSED WAS IN EFFECT WHAT THE OTHER ARABS WERE CRITICIZING EGYPT FOR HAVING ACCEPTED IN SINAI II. THE ARABS ALSO WERE NOT PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO RESORT TO FORCE, IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING LESS THAN PEACE EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT WANT WAR. THE SITUATION COULD THEN BECOME FROZEN WITHOUT THE FULL RETURN OF TERRITORY. KING CONTINUED IN GENERALLY NEGATIVE VEIN.

10. KING HOWEVER STRESSED NEED FOR SOME CONTINUATION OF MEMENTUM SO THAT THE PRECESS DOES NOT GET BOGGED DOWN.

11. SENATOR THOLD KING HE ADMIRERD WORK BEING DONE BY CROWN PRINCE IN AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FELT CROWN PRINCE WAS ONE OF THE FEW LEADERS IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SENATOR ALSO TOLD THE KING THAT HE COULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO ASSIST PRESIDENT ASAD IF HE WOULD AID ASAD IN DEVELOPING LATTER'S OWN THINKING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

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PROBLEMS. ASAD SEEMS NOT TO HAVE CONSIDERED THIS ISSUE AT ALL. JORDAN WITH ITS ADVANCED WORK IN THIS AREA COULD HELP SYRIA AND ASAD A GREAT DEAL IN DEVELOPINT ITS ECONOMY.

12. MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE OPENED WITH THE SENATOR PROVIDING AN OVER VIEW OF HIS TRIP AND GENERAL CONCLUSIONS FROM HIS RECENT TALKS IN THE AREA. THE SUBJECT MOVED ON TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE SENATOR SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF INDICIDUALS OF WORLD REPUTATION IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHO MIGHT ATTEND JORDAN'S FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONFERENCE. THE CROWN PRINCE SUGGESTED THAT THE SENATOR MIGHT MENTION TO THE ISRAELIS SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THEIR ECONOMIC POLICY ON THE WEST BANK WHICH WERE MILKING THE JORDANIAN ECONOMY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND WHICH BELIED THE OFTEN EXPRESSED ISRAELI IDEA THAT COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC RELATION SWITH THE ARAB STATES COULD DEVELOP AND WOULD PROMOTE PEACE. HE

REFERRED TO THE ISRAELI PRACTICE OF ERECTING TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE FROM THE EAST BANK TO THE WEST BANK AND ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED TO PERMIT MORE ARAB INVESTMENT IN THE WEST BANK. FINALLY, SENATOR AND CROWN PRINCE ALSO DISCUSSED JORDAN'S SEARCH FOR A HIGH-LEVEL US FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO PROMOTE AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN JORDAN. SENATOR WAS COMPLIMENTARY TO CROWN PRINCE FOR HIS WORK IN DEVELOPMENT AND TO JORDAN FOR THE LEAD WHICH IT HAS TAKEN IN THIS AREA. (ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 21 CROWN PRINCE TOOK SENATOR AND HIS STAFF ON PERSONALLY CONDUCTED HELICOPTER TOUR-- HASSAN AT THE STICK -- OVER THE NORTH JORDAN HIGHLANDS, UP THE YARMOUK TO THE SITES OF MUKHEIBEH AND MARQARIN DAMS, DOWN THE JORDAN VALLEY TO THE BRIDGE, WITH A STOP FOR A BRIEFING AND BREADFAST TO GIVE THEM A FIRST HAND IMPRESSION OF JORDAN'S PROGRESS AND NEEDS.

13. SENATOR AND STAFF ALSO MET PRIME MINISTER RIFA (SEPTEL REPORTS), VISITED JERASH, AND DISCUSSED HIS TRIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA AT DINNER WITH A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

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14. SENATOR HAS NOT REVIEWED THIS CABLE AND IT IS SUBJECT TO HIS COMMENT AND CORRECTION. TEL AVIV IS REQUESTED TO PASS TO SENATOR.

15 REPORT ON RIFAI TALK AND EMBASSY COMMENT ON VISIT BY SEPTELS. PICKERING

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